

**ABSTRACT****Stable oil-in-water emulsion, process for manufacturing it and its use in cosmetics and dermatology**

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The present invention relates to an emulsion comprising an oily phase dispersed in an aqueous phase, characterized in that the globules of the oily phase have an average size of less than 20 microns, in that the oily phase constitutes at least 15% by weight relative to the total weight of the emulsion and in that the aqueous phase contains at least one copolymer consisting of a major fraction of monoolefinically unsaturated C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> carboxylic acid monomer or its anhydride and a minor fraction of acrylic acid fatty-chain ester monomer, and in that it is free of surfactant.

The invention also relates to the use of the said emulsion in cosmetics and/or dermatology, in particular for treating, protecting, caring for and/or cleansing the skin, mucous membranes and/or the hair, and/or for making up the skin and/or mucous membranes.

The invention moreover relates to a process for preparing the said emulsion, which consists in introducing, under pressure, the oily phase into the aqueous phase containing the copolymer, through a hydrophilic porous glass membrane with an average pore size ranging from 0.1 to 5 µm and preferably from 0.3

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to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , at a pressure greater than the critical pressure.